

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Colombia/Central America

DATE DISTR. 16 JAN 50

SUBJECT Movements of Colombian Communists
to Central America

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

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[REDACTED] Raimundo Aguirre Agudelo, an economist employed by the Contraloria General de la Republica de Colombia, has stated that "the international Communist movement" is making plans to establish a center of influence in Central America. Aguirre Agudelo said that he believes that the country to be chosen will be Costa Rica, in spite of the fact that the attitude of the present government is manifestly anti-Communist. He added that Costa Rica had been selected before as a Communist center of influence, and that the late Soviet Ambassador to Mexico, Constantine Oumansky, had planned to go to Costa Rica to establish a Soviet Legation. Aguirre Agudelo further stated that prior to the revolution led by Jose Figueres in early 1948, Costa Rica had been ready to develop a Marxist government, insofar as the application of Marxist principles is possible in Latin America.

2. Aguirre Agudelo, who is considering the possibility of moving to San Jose, informed source that he had written to the Costa Rican labor leader and member of the Political Commission of the Vanguardia Popular, Jaime Cerdas Mora, for information on the current political situation. He also inquired about the possibilities of setting up an official dependency similar to the Contraloria General in Colombia which would be mainly engaged in the investigation of economic matters. He plans to offer his services as an economist to the new Costa Rican government since he is certain to lose his position when Laureano Gomez takes over as President of Colombia. Moreover, he wants to participate in the new Communist movement.

3. For the past five years, Aguirre Agudelo's work with the Colombian government has been connected with the analysis and interpretation of economic indices. Between 1934 and 1936 he was the Colombian Consul General in Poland. During his assignment in Warsaw he spent much time in Russia where he studied Marxist and Soviet economic systems. Upon his return to Colombia he did not join the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) nor was he listed as a Party sympathizer. Nevertheless, he has maintained a close friendship with Gilberto Vieira White, Secretary General of the PCC, who considers Aguirre Agudelo a perfect Marxist and one of the outstanding leftist personalities in the country.

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Document No. 6

NO CHANGE in Class. DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REC. 77/1703

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4. Another Colombian who wants to move to Costa Rica is the ex-Communist leader, Arturo Guillen, who withdrew from the Partido Socialista Democratico (PSD) to join forces with Dr. Diego Montaño Cuellar in his fight against the former Secretary General of the PSD, Augusto Duran. Guillen is reported to have requested reinstatement in the PCC. The National Directorate considered his petition and decided that Guillen could operate to greater advantage to the Party if he were not a member. In view of Guillen's intention of moving to Costa Rica, it was even more desirable that he should not be known as a militant Communist. Before this decision was made, the Secretary General of the PCC discussed Guillen's reinstatement with Jorge Enrique Bayona, Secretary of Organization, who stated that Arturo Guillen had worked in an exemplary fashion as a militant Communist from 1942 to 1945 and that he was considered a first-class revolutionary capable of directing acts of terrorism when necessary. Bayona was in favor of having Guillen reinstated as a member of the Communist Party.

5. Efren Diaz, prominent Colombian Communist, has also indicated that he would like to leave Colombia but has not mentioned where he was planning to go. Source reported that Diaz stated that the Central American countries hold forth more possibilities of realizing a Marxist revolution than any country in South America. He referred to a newspaper report which announced the discovery of a subversive Communist plan in Mexico, headed by Valentin Campa, and added that he knows Campa personally. Diaz explained Campa's expulsion from the Mexican Communist Party in 1940 as a device to free him for his revolutionary labors. Campa was described as a personal agent of Vicente Lombardo Toledano who enjoyed the latter's complete confidence. Diaz stated that Campa was undoubtedly assigned the task of organizing a revolution in Mexico. In case of failure, the Communist Party would avoid blame and loss of prestige since Campa is not a Party member, and in case of success, triumph would belong to the Communists.

6. According to Diaz, false expulsions from the Party have been practiced from time to time. However, it was agreed at secret Communist sessions during the Pro-Peace Congress in Mexico to make more use of public expulsions as a preliminary step toward the penetration of bourgeois societies. These penetrations should be for the purpose of gaining information about bourgeois and capitalist organizations and plans.

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~~Comment.~~ On 13 December 1949, Mexican government officials announced that well-organized Communists were trying to overthrow the Mexican government. The Mexican Communist Party has denied being involved in the alleged plot. The Organizational Secretary of the CPM, Encarnacion Valdez, stated that all persons mentioned in connection with the plot had long since been expelled from the Communist Party, some of them in 1940 and the others in 1943.

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